

Interview Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/928,007		BALDWIN ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Brian D Nash		3721	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Brian D Nash. (3)_____.

(2) Thomas Marsh. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: 29 March 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: All claims.

Identification of prior art discussed: US 3,823,818 to Shaw and US 5,884,457 to Ortiz et al.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Basis for the discussion centered around the obviousness and motivation of one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the two references mentioned above in order to arrive at the applicant's invention. Mr. Marsh, as stated in his remarks received 23 February 2004, stated that the reference of Shaw teaches away from the invention in that the plastic preforms and the environment in which they are processed is not sterile. Mr. Marsh also stated his position that it would not be obvious to combine the two references because Shaw does not disclose or suggest applicability to the field of medical products. Furthermore, Mr. Marsh reiterated from his remarks the submitted declarations in support of non-obviousness by Randall Smith and Jeffrey Baldwin.

The examiner discussed his position by reviewing the amended claims and remarks with Mr. Marsh and explaining why it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the references of Shaw and Ortiz et al. It is the examiner's understanding that the novelty of the invention is an apparatus for easier, quicker, and more accurate handling of syringe bodies for the medical field. Shaw discloses a method and apparatus for attaching cylindrical bodies via a flexible web specifically in order to provide a method and means for handling and/or storing the cylindrical bodies for future use. Ortiz et al disclose the syringe body having all the structural limitations of the claimed invention. As discussed, it is the examiner's position that it would be obvious to substitute the syringe bodies in order to arrive at the applicant's invention. Regarding the issue that the method and means of Shaw does not occur in a sterile environment is irrelevant because it is well known in the art to process containers in sterile environments when conditions necessitate such a means and it would have been obvious to do so if syringe bodies were substituted for the plastic preforms of Shaw. The examiner additionally refers back to the Response to Arguments found in the final rejection of Paper No. 16.

Regarding the discussion of the declarations submitted in support of non-obviousness by Randall Smith and Jeffrey Baldwin, the examiner restated his position that the declarations fail to provide support as to why it would not be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to incorporate syringe bodies with the disclosed apparatus of Shaw in order to produce the claimed invention. However, when all of the evidence is considered, the totality of the rebuttal evidence of nonobviousness fails to outweigh the evidence of obviousness. It is well known in the art to use teachings of similar methods and apparatuses in manufacturing as a means to improve and/or increase the efficiency of existing techniques. Shaw clearly shows an automated apparatus for handling a plurality of cylindrical bodies fixedly attached to a belt in a predetermined orientation and the substitution of syringe bodies for the thermoplastic preforms would have been obvious.

After further discussions on Wednesday 31 March 2004, Mr. Marsh agreed the the examiner's proposed amendment and cancellation of non-novel claims. The application is now in a condition for allowance via an examiner's amendment.